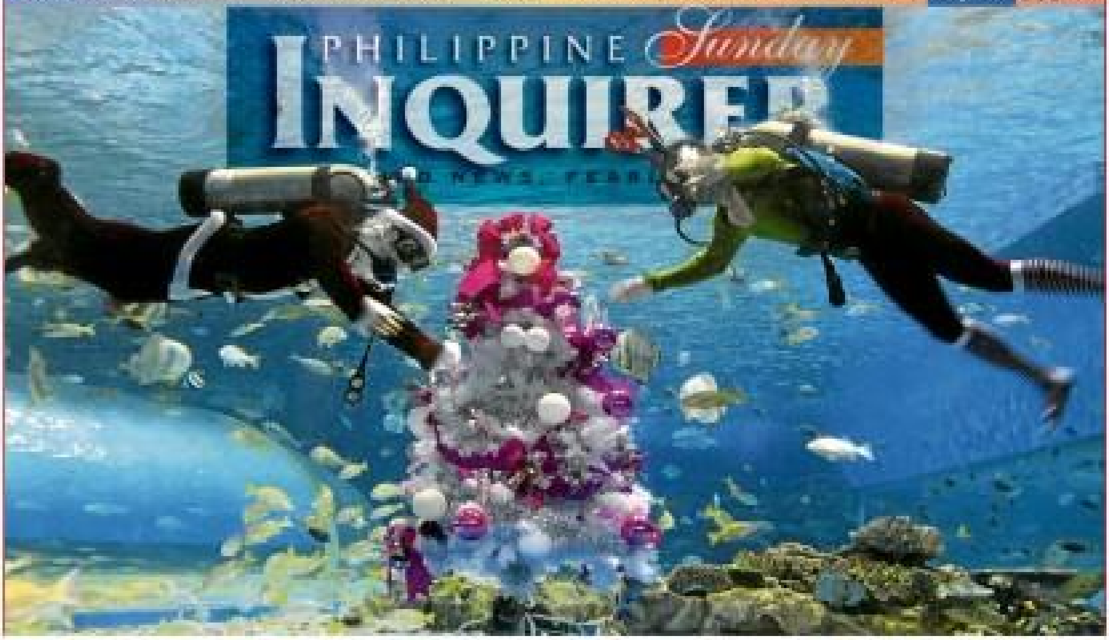
Sunday, December 11, 2011 ★★ 19 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 3 P20 www.inquirer.net Mobile Alert: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4467

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER



UNDERWATER CHRISTMAS TREE Two divers, one in a Santa Claus suit, decorate an underwater Christmas tree inside a huge aquarium as part of Christmas attractions at Manila Ocean Park. The park, which also features a penguin enclosure and an icy winter village, attracts thousands daily and has become one of the most popular destinations for the young this holiday season.

Martial law papers out

Declassified documents turned over to CHR

By TJ Burgonio

A ROAD to healing has been paved.

The Agrava Fact-Finding Board. After-operation report and security survey of Ninoy Aquino Assassination. Reassessment of the communist movement after one year of martial law. Russian vessels. MNLF Terroristic Plan. Batasang Pambansa Election.

These are the titles of some of 70 additional martial law documents that were turned over yesterday by the Department of National Defense to the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in a ceremony marking International Human Rights Day.

Kept by the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) under tight security for more than 30 years since strongman Ferdinand Marcos formally lifted martial law in 1981, the documents have been declassified and handed over to the CHR to make them eventually accessible to the public.

At the launch of the files at the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance assembly hall in Quezon City, CHR Chair Loretta Ann Rosales said the collaboration between the agency and the defense department, two institutions that had eyed each other with distrust, was itself a "breakthrough."

"Historically opposing forces

MARTIAL/A17

13 killed in crash—3 on the plane, 10 on the ground

By Tina G. Santos

WHAT was supposed to have been a quiet afternoon in a Parañaque village yesterday turned into a horrific nightmare for a number of families.

A light aircraft that had just taken off from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) crash-landed into a crowded slum inside the Better Living subdivision, razing over a hundred houses and killing at least 13 people, including three children, and leaving at least another 20 injured.

Air Transportation Office (ATO) chief Ramon Gutierrez said the six-to-eight-seater Beechcraft Queen Air plane sent out a distress call shortly after taking off from the airport for Mindoro at about 2:11 p.m. yesterday. It crashed before it was able to return to the airport.

Police said the plane crashed into a small vacant lot adjacent to a row of shanties inside the middle-class Better Living vil-

13 KILLED/A17



FR. REGINALD Malicdem, secretary of Cardinal Rosales for seven years, is introduced to Pope Benedict XVI in this undated photo.

My life with Lolo Dency

By Fr. Reginald R. Malicdem
Contributor

IT IS SAID that the first five years in the priesthood are crucial because they are the formative years. Thus I consider it God's great blessing to have spent not only the first five but the first seven years of my priesthood with a good, humble, simple, and holy priest—Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, whom we fondly call Lolo Dency.

He ordained me on Sept. 8, 2004, and, four months later, appointed me his personal secretary. What I thought was an assignment I would hold for only a few years lasted for seven

MY LIFE/A18

Media-friendly court: No more quiet days

By Miko Morelos

POORLY paid government workers are not exactly known for being the soul of graciousness, which is why some consider the courteousness of the staff at the Pasay Regional Trial Court Branch 112 an exception to the rule.

"It is a public service after all, and what the court wants is to achieve transparency," said Clerk of Court Jed Pelicano, explaining how he manages to be always nice to media members who have been filing in and out of the court's office since the electoral sabotage case against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was raffled off to

MEDIA-FRIENDLY/A6

DENR reports must now be under oath

By Leila B. Salaverria

FIELD officers of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) must swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

But it's not to give testimony in court (at least not yet) but to comply with a new directive from Environment Secretary Ramon Paje, who now requires his officers to have their accomplishment reports



"notarized" before submitting these to the main office.

Paje said the order would apply to all DENR regional executive directors and other field officials tasked to pursue the government's five-year reforestation drive, also known as the National Greening Program (NGP).

DENR/A6

1 dream, 100 years of Iloilo's St. Paul hospital

By Abe Florendo
Contributor

ON THE RAINY morning of Feb. 15, 1911, four French women, all belonging to the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres and their wimples drooping in the downpour, alighted from a boat at the port of Iloilo.

They were found quarters in a derelict warehouse on Rosario Street across from the town plaza, where they slept on the floor beleaguered by rats and mosquitoes.

They lost no time in setting up a clinic for the poor in that same warehouse, armed with an unshakable faith, boxes of medicines and a few rudimentary medical instruments they had brought with them from St. Paul's Hospital in Intramuros, Manila, whence they had come.

It did not matter that the pio-

1 DREAM/A13

WHAT'S INSIDE



ENTERTAINMENT • **Meryl** on 'Streep Tease' and Margaret Thatcher • **Hunky** Star gets 'home service' **NEWS** • **Mike** needs PNP nod to stay with GMA, says Palace **TALK OF THE TOWN** • **Can** we beat poverty? **WORLD** • **Nationwide** protests test Putin's power in Russia **SUNDAY BIZ** • **P&G** head fights pressure with calmness **LIFESTYLE** • **Which** events and people will you remember 2011 for? • **What** the third secret of Our Lady of Fatima really says

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE



EZ2		
	23	26
	15	27
	3	6

SUERTRES			
	0	3	8
	3	9	4
	8	4	2

SIX DIGIT: 2 2 0 4 6 5

6/42 LOTTO: 3 5 11 22 27 39 — P19,988,188.20

6/55 GRAND LOTTO: 17 40 42 48 53 55 — P30,000,000.00

'Mike needs PNP nod to stay with GMA'

JOSE MIGUEL Arroyo, the husband of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, has to get the permission of the Philippine National Police (PNP) if he wants to stay with his wife who is in detention at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, a Malacañang official said yesterday.

Comply with rules

Not 'difficult'

Checkups by her doctors

He lied, she lied...Horn, Robredo trade barbs on airlift

DON'T CALL her a liar.

Interviewed on TV

Divert attention away

P-Noy bares wish: Fighter jets from US just like Indonesia

Shooting relieves stress of office, says Aquino

No need to watch Abalos—Brillantes

Adelaida T. Llantada : 88



Recycling wins it for Negros school

Pinay nabbed for smuggling 600 compatriots into Europe



Ecumenical group urges gov't, Reds to talk peace, cease fire

By Philip C. Tubeza











Gov't should help other Pinoys in foreign jails–solon

More women than men

Light sentence





Media-friendly court: No more quiet days

From page A1

Plea from a friend

The day things changed

The friendliest branch

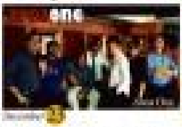


IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS AT DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES!



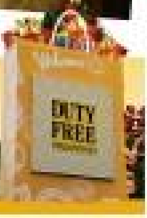








SMART SHOPPING HOURS AT DUTY FREE



DENR reports must now be under oath

For COA validation

No lying


'Tis the season to have the executive car for all reasons.
125! years of innovation
Mercedes-Benz
The best or nothing.


Sa panahon ngayon
Kailangan
mag-"subi" ka
para sa iyong kinabukasan
Choosing the right project to sell can help you come closer to fulfilling your dreams.
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GENSAN (083) 553-8434

1 dream, 100 years of Iloilo's St. Paul hospital



SISTERS of St. Paul de Chartres release the Centennial doves.

Dougherty's dream

'Father'

Crowning glory

New Home

My life with Lolo Dency

1. He always sees the good.

2. He loves his priests.

3. He loves the poor.

4. He loves people.

5. He lives by his motto.

6. He is very simple.

7. He wants us to forget him.

How can we forget?

INQUIRER Mindanao

Language + computer skills = peace

By [illegible]
Clark Freeport

AS THE government intensified military operations on the heels of attacks by Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels on soldiers in Basilan while peace talks were ongoing, 40 public school teachers in Mindanao took the path of peace by becoming better educators and peacemakers.

Sarahya Sakilan says these roles are easier said than done.

Midway into the weeklong "Tudlo Mindanao" training camp at the Clark Freeport in Pampanga last month, the 39-year-old Sakilan was wondering how her parents were caring her children, aged 6 and 13, out of Maluso, a coastal town in Basilan, to Zamboanga City.

Al-Barka town, the scene of the bloody clash between the MILF rebels and government soldiers on Oct. 18, is 80 kilometers from Maluso but her parents feared that the fighting may spread.

Sakilan was then that she would stay and continue teaching Grade 6 pupils in Port Holland Elementary School in Maluso. "I can't leave Maluso. I have no choice. If we teachers leave, what will happen to our students?" Sakilan said. "It's important to teach peace."



TEACHERS on a peace mission flash the peace sign during a break in their work. They hope to help solve conflicts in their communities through better communication skills, among others.

Forms of peace

Peace, to her, is not merely the absence of war or fire fights. Among its forms, she says, is a situation where poverty is eased or ended, the rights of people, especially children, are respected, and people of different religion and culture can live together in harmony.

On top of these values and learning conflict management skills, Sakilan says it is important to be competent in writing, reading and listening in English, and in using the Internet and basic computer programs so students can learn the language and tools, and use these to increase their chances to get out of poverty.

'Teachers take on the role of peacemakers because it is a moral obligation…'

Tudlo Mindanao is a project by the US Peace Corps and funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Begun in 2003 in cooperation with the Department of Education, it aims to enhance the basic education program in Mindanao.

The program has trained 2,200 teachers, supervisors and school administrators, says Monette Batino, manager of the US Peace Corps education sector.

For 2011 and 2012, the project is supported by $650,000 from the USAID, says Charlie Enciso, US Peace Corps director for programming and training.

The Clark camp was planned in September before the outbreak of clashes in parts of Mindanao.

The trainers are US Peace Corps volunteers who, like Batino and Enciso, give time and talent to contribute to the development of the Philippines where it has been present for 50 years.

Teachers who attended the Clark camp came from Regions IX (Western Mindanao) and XII (Central Mindanao) and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).



THE TEACHERS at work in a training session through which they hoped to improve their English communication and computer skills to pass on the knowledge to their students in conflict areas in Mindanao.

Highly valued

Teachers are highly valued in Lamitan's Parang Basak National High School. Michael Sabadon and 15 of his colleagues go to and leave school on a van secured by two Army soldiers. Lamitan was the site of several kidnappings by the Abu Sayyaf in 2002.

"As the [school] Internationals were going on, we heard bombings. Our students stopped to listen but quickly proceeded with what they were doing," Sabadon, 27, says.

"I'm not leaving. The Yakans are already neglected. They need to be helped," he says.

Wilma Velasco, 42, says it is peaceful in Dipolog City, the capital of Zamboanga del Norte, but poverty is an enemy.

She helps develop peace in communities around St. John Elementary School by mobilizing parents in, among other things, sandbagging the cliff on which the school stands.

In the Tudlo Mindanao camp, Velasco says one of the teachers felt helpless after a student told her that his uncle used him to deliver ransom money.

"My student did not want me to report the incident to authorities because his uncle's safety would be compromised. But his classmates were teasing him to part some money as extortionists," Velasco quotes the teacher as saying.

Marion Pangal says that while Datang, Maguindanao, is very peaceful, soldiers are now securing their town.

High dropout rate

Carlito Diosodan of South Cotabato says he is worried because of the high dropout rate among his students in Lamba National High School in Banga town. Most of them leave school to farm but lands are few since most are rented to a multinational company. "Poverty is intense," he says.

Florida Sajor of Koronadal City says the agrarian reform program didn't work because the parents of most of her students remain tenants in huge landholdings or landless.

Naildel Blan says his students at Sta. Lucia National High School in Pagadian City appeared to accept each other although they are a mix of Christians, Muslims and Subanens.

"One of them, a Muslim, volunteered to pray the 'Our Father' [of the Catholics]. No one protested. There was respect," Blan says.

Velasco, a mentor for 20 years, said teachers take on the role of peacemakers because it is a "moral obligation."

Across the NATION

Duterte heeds DILG, quits NDF post

DAVAO CITY—Vice Mayor Rodrigo Duterte announced he had quit as resource person for the National Democratic Front (NDF) in peace talks with the government on orders by the Department of Interior and Local Government.

NPAs kill 3 a day after Aklan tagged free of rebs



Japan trader goes missing in Sta. Rosa; cops clueless

Shop selling expired noodles, chicken padlocked

Cebu dads slash mayor's budget by at least ₱6B

Excitement grips Pampanga city over giant lantern fest



THE DAILY GOSPEL

DECEMBER 11 (Sunday)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 27 No. 9

OPINION

Dire warning

THE EXECUTION by lethal injection of the 35-year-old Filipino man in China last Dec. 8 should serve as a dire warning to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who, knowingly or unknowingly, act as "drug mules" for drug syndicates. After all, that was the fourth of such executions in China this year, which involved Filipinos. Last February, three other OFWs were executed for the same crime. The message should now be clear: should you get caught, there really isn't much the Philippine government can do to get you off the death row, save what everybody else can do, which is pray.

Editorial

The Department of Foreign Affairs' appeals for mercy for convicted Filipino drug mules in China have thus far proven futile. President Aquino himself, in a separate act, sent a letter to Chinese President Hu Jintao asking for a commutation of the death sentence, but it didn't change anything. "We take that as a decision from them that the sentence was final and it was actually carried out today," said presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda.

Still, the question persists as to whether or not the Filipino government should even lend a hand to save convicted Filipino drug traffickers abroad. Yes, it is sad and tragic that fellow Filipinos were executed for crimes related to trafficking of illegal drugs. But, unfortunately, some argue that they brought it upon themselves and that, therefore, they deserved it. They were caught carrying illegal drugs and so they had to be treated in accordance with what the law dictates. Their cases have gone through the required judicial process and, after due trial and deliberation, they were found guilty and sentenced to death. They would have escaped death had they been caught in the Philippines where the death penalty has been abolished. But the death penalty still applies in China—as well as in many other territories.

It should be obvious that the DFA can devote only so much of its limited resources to saving Filipinos convicted of drug-related crimes abroad. Indeed, it would be wiser and more practical for the DFA to study the cases of these Filipinos convicted abroad and decide which of these deserve to be appealed. Asking foreign governments to change their courts' verdicts or sentences is a tricky proposition. Each country has the right to prosecute, convict, incarcerate and, if its laws permit, even execute those violating its laws within its jurisdiction. And drug laws are among the strictest and most merciless in the world, but especially in China.

The DFA must get involved in such cases—the earlier, the better—and providing help during the trial may prove to be more effective than asking for clemency after the suspects have been sentenced to death. But to do this, it should come up with an accurate and detailed database of all the cases involving Filipinos abroad and research carefully what can be done to help them in whatever state their cases may be. This, of course, will entail a lot of work, particularly in China, where reportedly there are at present about 205 drug trafficking cases being prosecuted against Filipinos. For the bigger picture, the DFA estimated that, as of December 2009, around 7,200 Filipinos were in jail in over 80 countries, and more than 100 of them were facing the death penalty.

Government has already begun clamping down on drug syndicates by increasing security at the airports. In Congress, Akbayan Rep. Walden Bello and Rep. Kaka Bag-ao have filed House Resolution 1979 which demands that the government increase pressure on and go after local and international drug syndicates which are using OFWs as drug mules.

To be sure, the work must start here at home. And the DFA and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration must also warn both aspiring and back-to-work OFWs of the dire consequences of getting involved with drug syndicates. Every outgoing OFW, for example, should be informed of the techniques and situations used by the drug runners to snap them into a life of drug trafficking.

Of course, it is for the OFWs to say no to the victimization. "We have always been telling the public and those who are traveling to work abroad not to be used as drug mules," Lacierda said. Yet, the OFWs are the first in line to prevent their victimization.

Also, they should be told that the DFA cannot save every convicted Filipino—no matter how much it tries. The Philippine government can try mightily to save them from death, but simply because they are Filipinos doesn't mean they are innocent.



'Residencia'

Public Lives

Randy David

IN HIS famous essay, "The Philippines a century hence," Jose Rizal alluded to a practice during the colonial period that somehow mitigated the injustices of colonial rule. This institution was called the "juicio de residencia" or judgment of residence. It required Spanish public officials to render a full account of their performance in office at the end of their term.

A governor-general, for example, would not be allowed to return to Spain or assume another office until he was cleared by a judicial inquiry. During this review, which could last for six months, testimonies were collected from various individuals. The procedure was carried out automatically, without presuming any wrongdoing. If the outgoing official concerned was unable to give a satisfactory account of his actions, he was fined or jailed.

In today's language we might call the "residencia" a permanent "truth commission," a mechanism for reviewing past performance and instilling a strong sense of responsibility in public officials into whose hands the power of the sovereign is entrusted. In colonial Spain, that power belonged to the Crown. In republican systems like ours, it belongs to the people.

Rizal lamented the fact that the "residencia" was abandoned in the early 19th century, after the Spanish constitution of 1812 came into effect. Without an independent body or party like the "juicio de residencia" directing the inquiry purely in the name of the sovereign, "Abuse begins in the countries," observed Rizal. "The country is poor, it is going through a great financial crisis, and everybody points with their fingers to the persons who are causing the evil, and yet no one dares to lay their hands on them."

The "residencia" was generally conducted by the person already appointed as successor to the position. One can imagine how a review process like this could amount to a ritual of degradation for a once powerful figure who had abused his powers and prerogatives. The "residencia" stood as a grim reminder to public officials that the power they wielded did not belong to them, that there would be a reckoning at the end of their term, and that therefore they should at all times use their power responsibly.

It is a sound philosophy revolving around an ethic of power that in modern times has been easily lost in the labyrinth of laws and legal procedures. There have been many attempts in various democracies to create a mechanism that would serve this purpose. Perhaps, the most common of these is the Office of the Ombudsman, an agency that is invested with the power to launch its own investigations of public officials without waiting for an actual complaint to be filed. Alas, our expectations of this office within our own system of government have rarely been matched by any remarkable achievement. Many reasons have been cited for this state of affairs, not the least of which is the inadequacy of personnel and resources. But I suspect the main important reason is the political pressure that is often brought to bear on the office whenever powerful and influential figures are involved.

In 1978, the United States Congress passed a couple of laws aimed primarily at curbing the powers of the president and senior executive officials. These are the "Ethics in Government Act" and the "Independent Counsel Act." Both became law in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal that forced the resignation of Richard Nixon as president.

The independent counsel was not a presidential appointee. He was chosen by a panel of the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. But, he had the power to inquire into allegations of misconduct, enjoyed an unlimited budget, and was not constrained by a deadline. The attorney general alone could fire him, but only for good cause. The investigation by the IC culminates in a report that is submitted to Congress.

The most famous of the ICs was Kenneth Starr, who conducted a wide-ranging probe of almost all presidential prerogatives during the term of President Bill Clinton. Starr was a former Court of Appeals judge and solicitor general. It was Starr's dogged inquiry that produced the details and the evidence of Clinton's sexual liaison with the White House intern Monica Lewinsky. Among the pieces of evidence that Starr produced were taped conversations between Lewinsky and her close friend Linda Tripp, in which Lewinsky talked at length about her encounters with Clinton. It was Tripp who provided the tapes.

Although Clinton was subsequently acquitted by the Democratic-led US Senate during his impeachment, the whole episode prompted a public apology from him and his license as a lawyer was suspended for five years. In 1999, a year after the Clinton investigation, the position of independent counsel was abolished. Starr had served for five years in that position. He enjoyed such a good reputation as a courageous and principled lawyer that he was once considered for the US Supreme Court. Today, he sits as president of Baylor University.

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia objected to the existence of the office of the independent counsel on the ground that it functioned in effect as a fourth branch of government. Still, subsequent rulings of the high court upheld its constitutionality. One can only suppose that even in a society like America, where a system of checks and balances is in place, there is a strong felt need for a "juicio de residencia" invested with enough authority and autonomy to make accountable those who act in the name of the sovereign people.

* * *

public.lives@gmail.com

Toward the light

Moments

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a judge who asked a defendant: "Where will you go if you tell a lie?" The defendant said: "To hell, your Honor." Then the judge asked: "And where will you go if you tell the truth?" To which the defendant replied: "To jail, your Honor."

In today's Gospel (Jn. 1, 6-8, 19-28), we hear of John the Baptist who told the truth and testified to the Light. He did not pretend to be somebody else. "I am not the Messiah." He was honest about who he was, and he was clear about his role and mission in life.

* * *

Problems arise when a person becomes dishonest about himself/herself, and when he/she does not become true to his/her calling. Look at history, and see how many dishonest people have hurt so many and caused so much havoc in people's lives because of their dishonesty, unfaithfulness and deceit. We don't need to look far. We only need to look at ourselves, our circle, and people around us. In fact, we need only to look at ourselves.

* * *

In baptism, the parents and godparents are given the lighted candles to remind them of their duty to pass on the light of faith to the children. The lighted candles are also a reminder for them to become shining examples to the children. With Christmas coming and with our traditional gift-giving to the children, let us also reflect on our light-giving mission unto them.

If you want to know what it means to testify to the light, go back and remember the usher/usherette who meets you in a dark movie house and with his/her flashlight, leads you the way, and points you to your seat, so that you can watch and enjoy the movie. Take note, the usher/usherette does not point the flashlight to himself/herself.

* * *

Nobody stays in the limelight forever. The sooner we learn this lesson in life, the better. The other lesson we need to learn is our willingness to just fade away. People who learn these lessons will not need to be dragged away, or to be forced to exit in a disgraceful way.

* * *

The Blessed Mother was one who never grabbed the limelight from her Son. She always pointed to Him and not to herself. In our present world where there is so much passion for popularity and power, may she be a reminder to us that humility and goodness of heart are virtues that are necessary, important and relevant.

* * *

Papa used to kid Mama about her smiles being "so sure as December showers." Well, the climate has really changed, and we have been having not only showers but rain this December. However, last Dec. 7, there was no rain as we celebrated our rosary and Mass vigil at the grotto in Christ the King Seminary, Quezon City. Days before that and after that, we had rain, but on that vigil night for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, we had a cool, moonlit December evening. When asked if there was a Plan B in case it rained, Bernie Mapiscayati, an ex-SVD seminarian (SSSI) and a member of the Perpetual Rosary Movement, said: "There is no Plan B. We just pray to Mama Mary." Indeed the Blessed Mother is present and active in those out there! Thank you, Mama Mary!

* * *

Speaking of Mama, we had a beautiful and meaningful 90th birthday celebration for her last Dec. 8. It was attended by relatives and friends through the years, her nephews and nieces Bella and Connie Galicia, Ed and Evelyn Galicia, Jun Lopez and their children came all the way from the United States and Canada for the occasion. Her classmates from the Philippine Normal School, Honorata Mendez and Consuelo Ocampo, brought the house down with their stories about memory lane. It was a fitting tribute to Mama, a humble, prayerful woman whose only passion and mission in life is to obey God's will. Thank you, Lord, for Mama, a humble daughter of our Blessed Mother.

* * *

There is so much I want to share about our Mama, but enough to say that her faith is something that anchors and humbles me up to now. The Lord indeed raises the humble and the lowly. Mama is one who says little, but who loves much. Let us thank God for people like Mama who shun the limelight, and who point toward the light by their very lives!

* * *

In preparation for Christmas, you are all invited to the Marian Congress with the Marian Missionaries today, Dec. 11, 2011, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Paul University, Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City. The speaker will be Fr. Mario Sobrejuanite, SSP.

* * *

Bantay Matanda invites you to a lay forum on Natural Healing Remedies at the Arnoldus Hall, Christ the King Seminary, on Dec. 17, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. For inquiries, please call 371-2265/998-3546/0917-8107848.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to live in your light, and point always toward you, the Light of my life. Amen.

Finding win-win solutions in Luisita

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban



Involving men in family planning

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



The impoverished 'Asian century'

WORLD VIEW

Chandran Nair

Project Syndicate

The lost boy

METHOD TO MADNESS

Patricia Evangelista



TALK of the TOWN

Can we beat poverty?

Synergy as strategy

By Jose Eliseo M. Rocamora

THE DEPTH of poverty in the Philippines will require efforts on a massive scale. A multidimensional approach grounded in economic growth and its distribution will therefore be needed to effectively reduce poverty.



AN OLD woman gathers charred wood in an urban community hit by fire.

Development planning

Good governance

Key programs

Paradox of growth

By Lila Ramos Shahani

Regions

Stuck

High levels of inequality

The poor by sector

Group	Poverty incidence (in percent)	Number
Fisherfolk	[illegible]	[illegible]
Farmers/forest workers	[illegible]	[illegible]
Women	[illegible]	[illegible]
Children	[illegible]	[illegible]
Urban poor	[illegible]	[illegible]

Martial law …

Legacy, investment

Setting record straight

Efforts lacking

Decline in numbers

13 killed in crash—10 on the ground

Like flying stunts

Distress call

Damage estimated

News

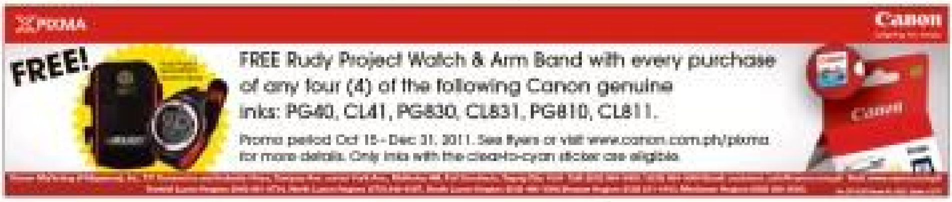


The music never stopped as Inquirer marked 26 years



Aplus

METRO



Cop couple to be cited for 'heroic act'

[illegible]



FLUVIAL PARADE





CCP: There's more to arts than ticket sales

By Leila B. Salaverria

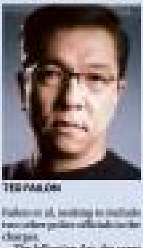


POEA opens more kiosks to help OFWs

By Philip C. Tubeza

Court asked to defer ruling on cops' bid vs Failon

By Julie M. Aurelio



TED FAILON

Marikina names city's 13 outstanding individuals

By Kristine Felisse Mangunay

Death by electrocution

[illegible]

Guard-thief who shot dead dental clinic staff during rob try hunted

[illegible]



GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Monica Feria

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

LALAINE CHU-BENITEZ:

Professional Filipinas have a voice in the Gulf

By Yasmine C. Hidalgo

Contributor

'Things would change when they hear me speak, you can see their expression change from disbelief to respect'



LALAINE and Mon Benitez are among many rising young Filipino professionals in the Gulf.

Early days in Dubai

A career break

Love blossomed

Shifting gears, moving up

Work challenges

Overcoming challenges

Balancing work and family

The birth of "Illustrado"

Their advocacies

Advice to aspiring expats

Understanding the New Immigration Bill



IMFO

Lourdes Santos Tancinco

The Visa Allocation System

The Proposed Changes

The Family Based Visas

Too Early to Rejoice



IT LOOKS SO PEACEFUL

Thieves in cop uniform steal worker's bike at checkpoint

On an errand

Checkpoint operation

Only P300

More areas now enjoy reliable water supply

India probes hospital fire as deaths reach 90





Iran takes drone complaint to the UN Security Council

Nobel winner says Arab Spring will banish terror



KARMAN

EU leaders back euro pact, but UK stays out

BRUSSELS—European Union leaders banded together on Friday to back tighter budget policing in a desperate bid to save the eurozone, with Britain left isolated after it vetoed a new EU treaty.

After years of foot-dragging on deepening integration, 26 of the 27 EU states signaled their willingness to join a "new fiscal compact" to resolve the crisis threatening to crack apart the monetary union.

But the deal came with a heavy political price when economic Britain rejected a Franco-German drive to enshrine new budget rules in a modified EU treaty.

"The British were already not in the euro, and in that respect, we are used to this situation," said German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Merkel said she was "very pleased" euro bail agreed on the pact, which includes plans to impose near-automatic sanctions on debt and deficit delinquents.

"We have learned from the mistakes of the past," she said as EU leaders wrapped up two days of marathon talks.

Some leaders hope the pact will convince the European Central Bank to drop its reluctance to use its full arsenal against the crisis after ECB president Mario Draghi called for a "new fiscal compact" last week.

Draghi dubbed the summit decisions a "very good outcome" for the eurozone.

Many analysts see the ECB, with its power to print money, as the single currency's best hope after eurozone leaders struggled to boost the firepower of their bailout fund to one trillion euros ($1.3 trillion).

The 17 eurozone countries signed up to the pact while nine other EU nations "indicated the possibility to take part in this process" after consulting their parliaments, EU leaders said in a statement.

Hungary had originally voiced reluctance, while Sweden and the Czech Republic were undecided.

The new deal, to be adopted by March through an intergovernmental agreement, was put to the entire 27-nation bloc in the interests of maintaining unity.

"Europe for me, all are considering participation," said EU president Herman Van Rompuy. "It is unfortunate that we missed the chance to have a full-fledged treaty change, but having said that, we will make the best of it."

French President Nicolas Sarkozy said British Prime Minister David Cameron's bid to halt ongoing EU efforts to curb the City of London's huge financial services sector was "unacceptable."

Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti agreed and added that Britain had "shut itself out" and now faced "certain isolation."

Cameron argued that since London could not secure safeguards for its vital financial sector, "it is better to be on the outside."

He later told British broadcasters: "We are not being excluded, we are in the European Union, we're a leading member of the single market."

A square mile in central London is home to 75 percent of Europe's entire financial services industry, but the British government is resisting French and German moves to impose a financial transactions tax, as well as new regulations curbing trading.

European stock markets closed higher on news of the deal.

London's FTSE 100 index of top companies rose up 0.65 percent, the Paris CAC-40 jumped 2.48 percent and the Frankfurt DAX-30 was up 1.91 percent. Milan soared 3.37 percent.

US stocks also closed on solid gains: the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 1.55 percent, the broader S&P 500 jumped 1.69 percent, and the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite gained 1.94 percent.

The accord, which is to include automatic sanctions that can only be blocked by a majority of powerful states, aims to end past practices of overspending responsible for the two-year debt crisis swinging Europe.

Officials said they would have to iron out complex legal issues posed by an intergovernmental arrangement since the institutions would police budgets. The European Commission and the EU Court of Justice represent all 27 states.

While the leaders split over treaty changes, they pledged to pump 200 billion euros into IMF coffers to help the eurozone, which is struggling to boost its own rescue fund to one trillion euros.

The ECB would act as an agent for the bailout fund, the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF).

The EFSF's successor, the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), will come into force earlier than first mooted in July 2012, with a lending capacity of 500 billion euros.

The head of the Bank of France, Christian Noyer, said the summit did not justify a greater intervention by the ECB.

"There is no need for something more massive," said Noyer, who also sits on the ECB's governing council.

And in Washington, White House spokesperson Jay Carney welcomed developments.

"There has been some progress and that's a good thing," he said.

A German-led drive to make the private sector accept losses in future rescues was abandoned.

But Germany won other battles, notably when EU leaders dropped the idea of pooling debt by issuing joint eurozone bonds. AFP



A VENDOR tends his stall in Brussels on Dec. 9 as leaders of the 17 countries that use the euro, plus six others, agreed to stricter budget rules seen as crucial to solving Europe's debt crisis. AP

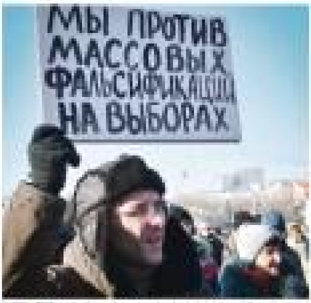
UE Confers Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree upon Outstanding Alumnus Andrew Tan

[illegible]

The WORLD

Nationwide protests test Putin's power in Russia

MOSCOW—Russia braced on Saturday for the first nationwide protest against strongman Vladimir Putin's 12-year rule amid signs of swelling anger over a poll won by his party with the alleged help of wide-scale fraud.



ACTIVISTS in Vladivostok protest against alleged mass fraud in the Dec. 4 parliamentary polls on Dec. 10. The poster reads: "We are against the wide-scale fraud in the polls!" AFP

A blogger coins a phrase and galvanizes discontent

Sunday SPORTS

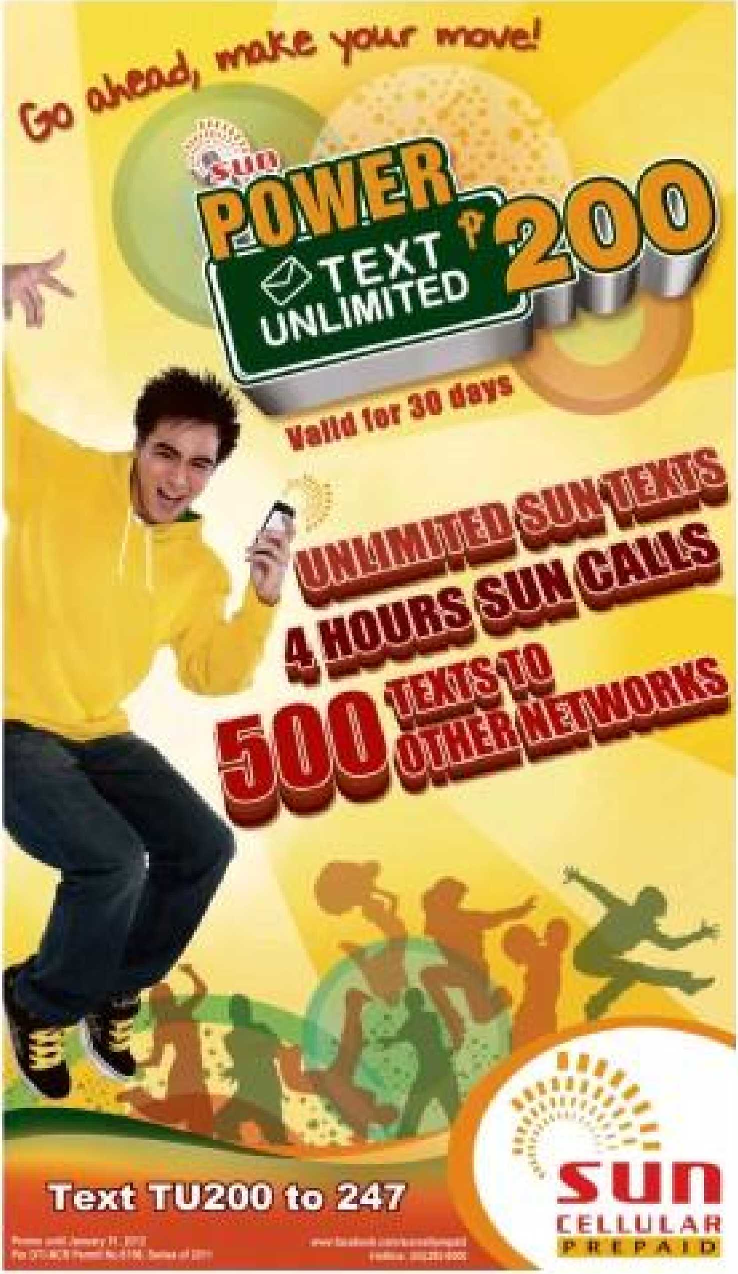




BRIAN Viloria (right) will defend his title against Giovani Segura, but he could climb the ring as underdog against the dangerous Mexican.

KO looms as Viloria defends title today

By Roy Luarca



Execution is key for Brian vs Mexican

By Mike Ochoa

Unusual self

Initiate action

Air Force Phoenix reigns



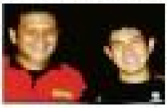
Patrimonio, Capadocia forge title clash

Eala trounces Del Rosario; Santiago wins

Jayme Off-Road Driver of the Year



Riveras power Fern-C Racing to top



PH memory team cops 2nd



Segura, Garduce seek new targets

In Huddle



Beth Celis

Mizuno rules Fil-Am golf on tiebreak over Seabridge

Lady Falcons wallop Lady Warriors in 3



Texters, Kings vie for seeding

Perpetual pulls off twin volley wins

Patriots to test new ABL lineup

PCCL plans to expand with junior teams soon

KO looms as Viloria defends crown

Buenavista eyes 4th national Milo marathon crown today

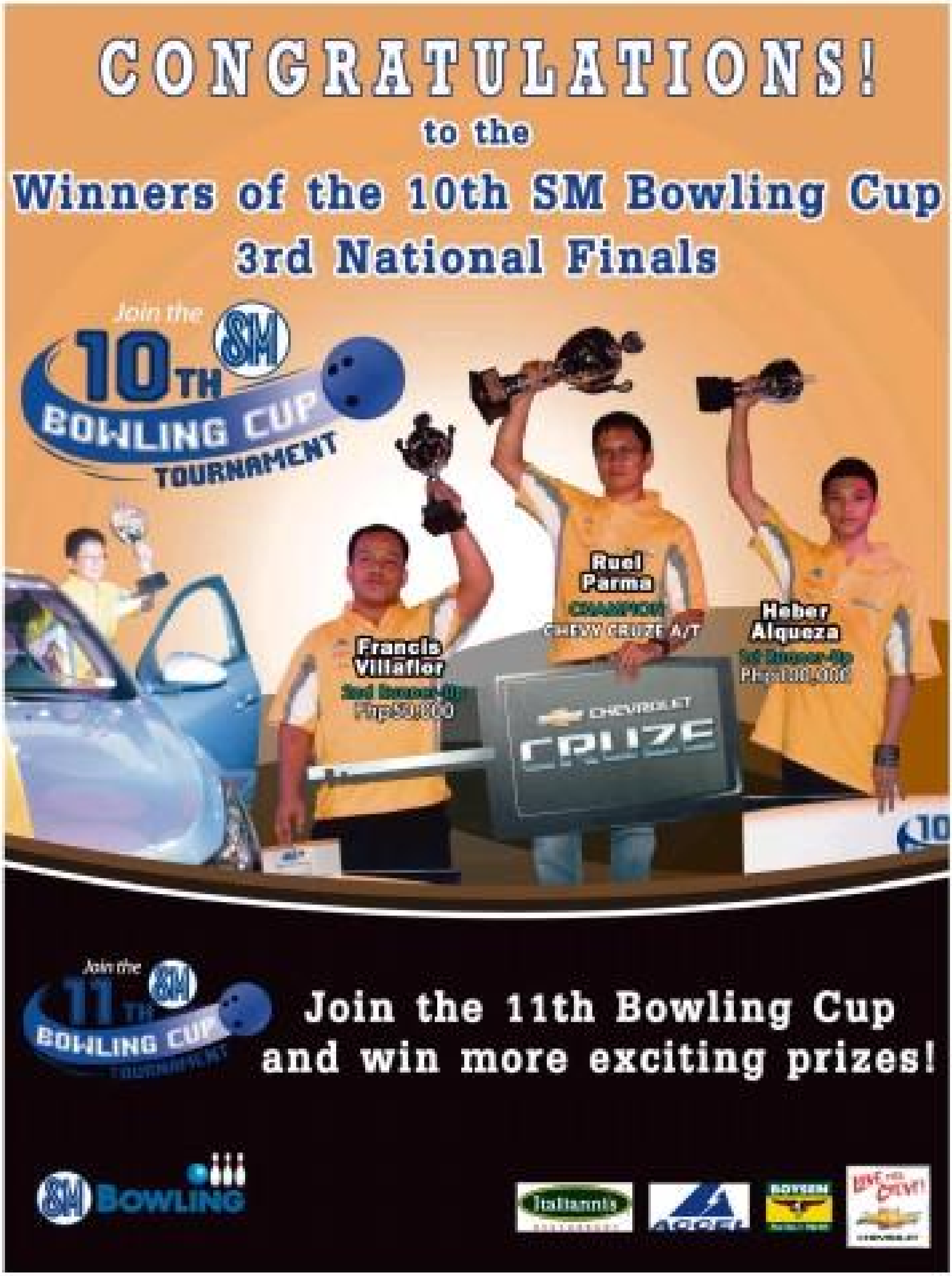


Sunday SPORTS



BATANG PINOY

Laguna bets dominate finals



Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Sunday Biz

[illegible]



SIDDIK Tetik poses with P&G products manufactured and sold in the Philippines.

P&G head fights pressure with calmness



THE PRESIDENT and general manager of P&G Philippines teaches young schoolchildren the proper way to wash hands with soap for Global Handwashing Day.



TETIK volunteers with other P&G employees in packing school supplies for the company's [illegible] program.

By Abigail L. Ho

IN THE fast moving consumer goods industry, pressure is a daily fare and stress is nothing out of the ordinary. Different brands fight over the Filipino consumers' scarce cash on a daily basis and market leadership can change hands in the blink of an eye if a brand gets too complacent.

Despite its strong No. 1 position in the country, P&G Philippines, one of the world's biggest consumer goods companies, experiences the same daily stress every day. But looking at president and general manager Siddik Tetik, one will not be able to tell that this is the case.

With his calm demeanor and almost permanent smile, one would think he is a vacationing expat, instead of the man at the helm of one of the country's most successful companies. His secret: Calmness at all times.

"I'm balanced and calm. Even in tough situations, I keep my calmness and never show panic to my team. It allows me to think (in a healthy manner)," he tells SundayBiz. "My calmness—people appreciate that. Even when I face big issues, I don't react severely. Sometimes people react without thinking, and that causes damage. If you're a smart person, you will stop and think about the consequences of your actions before reacting and making decisions."

When he finds himself in particularly nasty situations, he relates that he usually writes his thoughts down, instead of directing vexatious comments at a particular person. He holds back unbecoming retorts and contents himself with blowing off steam by writing e-mails that he never sends.

After typing away on his computer and rereading what he has written, he says he has already calmed down enough to face the people that he has to face and to make whatever decision has to be made.

This is one trick that he says he shares with his people, knowing how stressful the environment P&G is operating in.

Work-life balance

Striking a healthy balance between work and personal life is another thing that he strives to achieve, and wants to impart to his people as well. For someone who is leading a consumer goods giant operating in a fiercely competitive environment, Siddik can hardly be described

P&G/B3



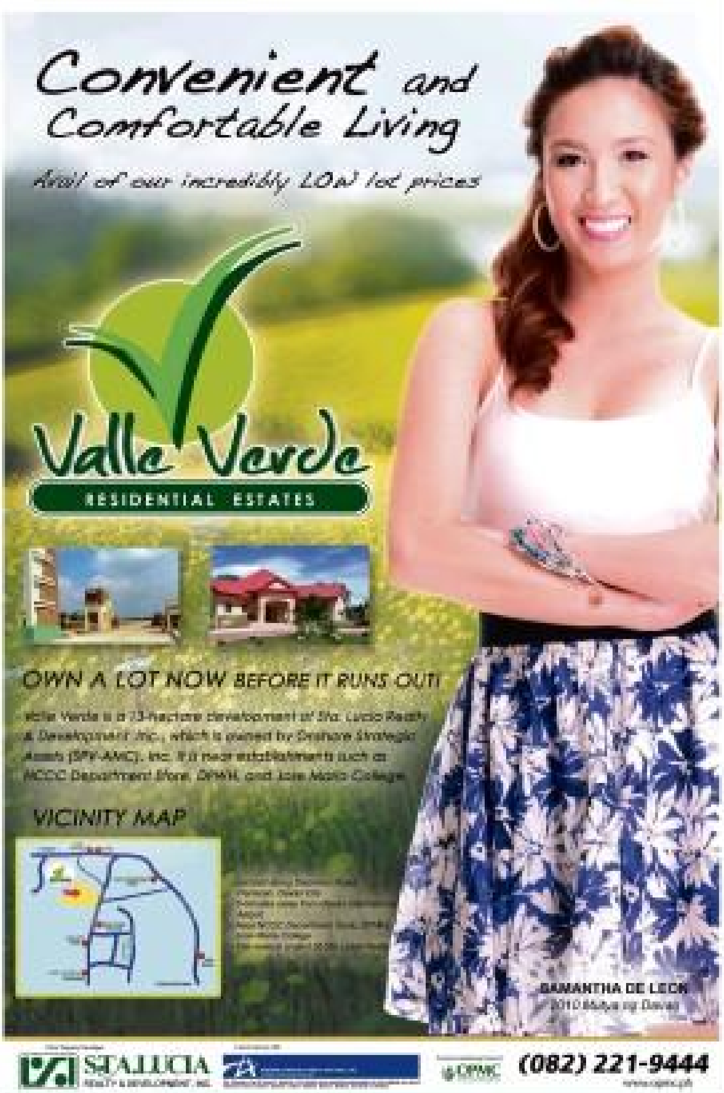
SIDDIK Tetik with [illegible]

P&G head fights pressure with calmness



From rocks to razor blades

Citibank, Bayan Academy out to boost small traders



Park and sell concept hits Metro Manila this holiday



'Filipinos love to go to bazaars because they know how to haggle'

Park, sell, go

Pinoys are discount hounds

Sunday BIZ

E-Tailing: Where you may get the latest bag or shoe

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

[illegible]



Dealsmarter group Ex Cruz, Dodo Melton, Ash Mandayan and Lourd Ramos of Creations

[illegible]

Retailers adapt as mobile holiday shopping booms

[illegible]

Peak mobile shopping day

[illegible]



GMA names Yalong as EVP

[illegible]



Sunday Biz

COO lawyer in charge of what movies and *telenovelas* you watch in GMA

By Paolo G. Montecillo

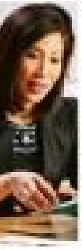
MANY of us have laughed at Eugene Domingo's jokes, shed a tear or two as Rhian Ramos bares her heart on the silver screen, and marveled at Senator Bong Revilla's exploits as the latest incarnation of legendary pinoy character, Panday.

"Success of Filipino films depends not on explosion and computer graphics, but how well actors and actresses can connect with audiences"





Anna Teresa Gozon-Abrogar hobnobs with the rich and famous.



ANNA at work



WOMAN in charge

KAPE

Princess brings water and electricity to a town

By Chit U. Juan
Contributor





Each bean they grow for a cup of Nescafe

Nestle buys only top quality coffee beans





Globe treats OFWs to an early Christmas

With its widest international coverage, Globe brings OFWs closer to home with the most affordable IDD rates to the Philippines.







Globe

Sunday Biz

Joey Concepcion turns Japanese





Entrepreneur wants to bring everything katsu to the country





In Mindanao, peace may be squeezed from ketchup bottle

COO lawyer in charge of what movies and *telenovelas* you watch...









Sunday LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE
■ What the third secret of Our Lady of Fatima really says

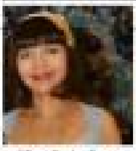


Which events and people will you remember 2011 for?

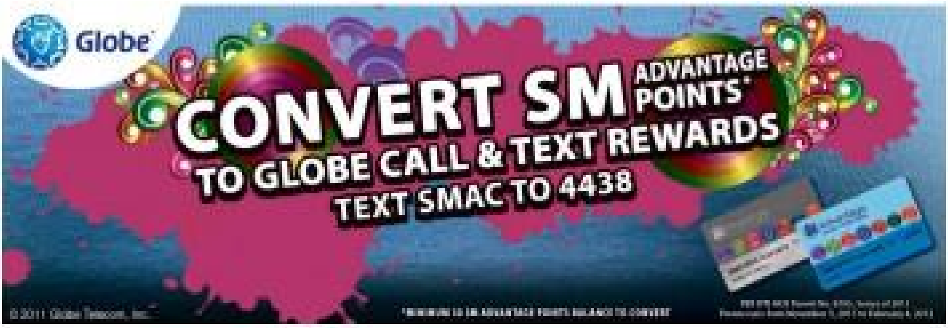
From Ghadafi to GMA, Steve Jobs to Elizabeth Taylor—people's lists vary











Which events and people . . .



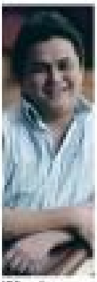


FLOY Quintos



GEORGE Sy





JC Buendia



KAYE Tinga







YOLLY Crisanto



STEPHEN Ko



CHEF Jessie Sincioco



KIMBERLEY Nicolas, representative of Imee Marcos, shops for the special kids of Tahanang Mapagpala Foundation.

Senate spouses play Santa

CHRISTMAS CAME early for the children of the Tahanang Mapagpala Foundation when members of the Senate Spouses Foundation treated them to a day of fun, food and shopping at SM Megamall.

It was Christmas in November for the [illegible] children in this joint annual project of SM and the Senate Spouses Foundation, Inc. that aims to bring the joys of Christmas to [illegible] kids.

Senate spouses Elvira Ponce, Mila [illegible], Taguig Mayor Lani Cayetano, Rep. Lani Mercado-Revilla and Gloria Angara played santa for a day to the bands of kids assigned to them, taking them around the SM Department Store to shop for their Christmas wishes—clothes, toys, shoes and other goodies. SM Investments Corporation vice chair Teresita Sy-Coson joined them in this day of fun and sharing.

[illegible]

In return, the kids sang the program "[illegible]" to the Senate spouses and SM. A [illegible] at Wendy's and [illegible] at Jollibee completed the day.

The Christmas in November event is an annual project of SM and the Senate Spouses.



LANI Mercado-Revilla and the little girls and boys of Tahanang Mapagpala Foundation



TAGUIG Mayor Lani Cayetano shopping with the Tahanang Mapagpala kids



LITTLE girls all perked up for Christmas after shopping with Gloria Angara at SM Department Store



GLORIA Angara, Elvira Ponce and SM's Tessie Sy-Coson of the Senate Spouses Foundation, Inc.'s Christmas in November



MILA Drilon and kids after shopping at SM Department Store



FLIP-FLOP CELEBRITY LINE

Banana Peel flip-flop concept store recently launched a new line—the Maja and John Lloyd signature collection, featuring celebrities Maja Salvador and John Lloyd Cruz—at Shoe Superstore, QC, with Banana Peel's [illegible] and Crystal City.



THE PODIUM

This Christmas, Santa's making a list
and checking it twice so you can get

ALL THINGS NICE



December 16-18 Holiday Sale
on Premium Selections

All weekends of December - Santa's Workshop

Treats await every minimum
accumulated purchase of Php 2,500*:

- Prizes from Santa's Pick Booth
- Entry to Santa's Workshop
- Free Gift Wrapping

SAMSUNG · National Book Store · OUR HOME · DISCOVERY















With her merchandising background, Jessica Tan-Gan shops with a trained eye. Delighted with her finds at The Podium, she takes a moment to match friends' personalities and tastes with the shoes, bags, and accessories she's handpicked. When it comes to Christmas presents, Jessica's a self-confessed perfectionist.



THE PODIUM



IN THIS ISSUE

■ **You can customize** the phone you want F2

Sunday LIFESTYLE



Rich silhouettes, dark romance



RUFFLES and lace add a touch of whimsy to a lilac frock.

By Carmencita S. Simon
Contributor

BOUTIQUE DEPARTMENT store Adora carries the latest Givenchy offerings, inspired by the decadent '70s and '80s pinups.

As the French brand's designer Riccardo Tisci is known for reworking past silhouettes, layering, and creating trompe l'oeil finishes, his current collections are no exceptions. He serves up transitional pieces with a mix of silhouettes, textured effects and unique prints.

Somber black is replaced by rich ...



PAISLEY-PRINT skirt suit paired with a bomber jacket







NATALIA Vodianova for Givenchy's Fall 2011 campaign





Rich silhouettes, dark romance









"ANTIGONA" bag in peacock blue, "Nightingale" bag in gray



"PANDORA" leather bag

Christmas promos

WHAT'S UP

I sowed my wild oats, and now my grandkids are all gay

DEAR EMILY,

EMILY'S POST



Emily A. Marcelo

Wire creation spreads Christmas message

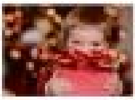
Unique, innovative work of art from Meralco's artisans







Game time begins in Macau





Grand Marian procession proceeds despite rain; Ambassadors of Light give hope

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang



FOR THE FIRST time, the grand Marian procession in Intramuros was marred by rains. On Dec. 4, rains fell on people setting up the "carrozas" inside Fort Santiago. Devotees who had brought their images as far as Isabela and Pasi, Cagayan, covered their images with tarpaulins.

Our Lady of Guibang

Military escort

Ambassadors of Light music school

SM Foundation builds pediatric hospice

Prayer for Jordan





OUR LADY of the Visitation of Guibang, patroness of Isabela province

'The pain now is part of the happiness then.' That's the deal

Amid the challenges, we must not lose sight of the joy—and vice versa

By Fr. Tito Caluag
Contributor

LET US REFLECT in two parts this Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent. The first fo-

Gaudete Sunday


Raise curtains and hemlines.
10%
rebate*


Harmonize fashion pieces.

Sunday Lifestyle



OPENS Jan. 24, 2012, at CCP

After 'Mamma Mia!,' 'Phantom of the Opera'?

LOOKS LIKE Metro Manila will have a very musical Year of the Dragon as 2012 starts off with the much-awaited Abba hit musical.

"Mamma Mia!" opens Jan. 24 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, featuring an international cast that's fresh off its performances in Zurich.



The cast assembles veteran theater actors from the West End, the Royal Shakespeare Company, Bristol Old Vic Theater School and other theater institutions in the UK, and showcases of film and TV in the UK.

In the lead are Sara Poyzer as Donna, the mother of the bride-to-be Sophie whose life is suddenly put in a tizzy as her daughter invites her three possible fathers to her wedding. Sophie is played by Charlotte Wakefield, a nominee for Best Actress in a musical in the 2010 Laurence Olivier Awards.

The musical, which was made into a movie starring Meryl Streep, was based on the music of the '70s hit group Abba. Its creative producer Judy Craymer first met the songwriting geniuses behind Abba—Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson. Their collaboration gave birth to the musical.

It opened on West End in London and, 10 years ago, on Broadway. When it celebrated its 10th year on Broadway last October, the Empire State Building was lit up in pink, white and blue in honor of "Mamma Mia!"

Given the excitement over this coming musical in Manila, it is said that Lunchbox, the British outfit that brings the musicals to Manila, in partnership with the local Concertus, might bring soon Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Phantom of the Opera"—believed to be the most expensive stage production today.







Hail the hotel service that 'exceeds your expectations'

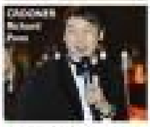
At the Radisson Blu in Cebu, free WiFi, your own gourmet coffee machine, and late checkouts are just some of the standard amenities











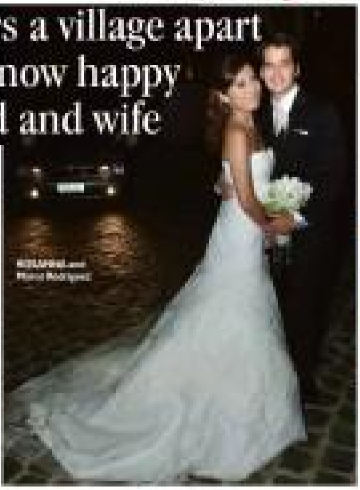


You can customize the phone you want

With Globe's iPhone 4S, 'you can build your plan, put in your own apps in your phone, and it becomes your device and your own experience'

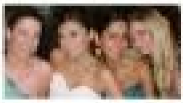


Strangers a village apart as kids, now happy husband and wife









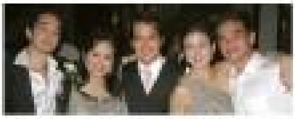


Special destination

Sumptuous reception









The Sugarkids Holiday Collection at SM

Just like little girls, the Sugarkids collection is sugar and spice and all things nice, the prettiest and trendiest shoes in town. Little princesses can step on the sweet side during the holidays with shoes that combine grown-up glam and a youthful charm. There are boots with floral prints and fab fur accents, metallic dress and party shoes, fun flatties, and two-toned mary janes. Sparkling rhinestones, animal prints, and floral accents make these even more dazzling and delightful.
The Sugarkids Holiday Collections is available at the Children's Shoes Department of all SM stores.



Suede boots with fur

Classic black and white oxfords and sparkling silver mary janes

Fab, feline flatties. Animal-printed ballerina slippers in black & purple or black & gold prints

Two-toned Mary janes with bow accents

Glowing gold ballerina slippers and glittery fuchsia Mary janes



Floral lace-up boots

These furry boots are great for snuggling

Preppy booties by Sugarkids

Glitzy satin strapped ballerina slippers in silver, fuchsia, and royal blue

Ballet toe flats with ribbon and lace accents

The metallic fun and flat for Sugarkids

Polka mary janes in fun colors

Silver and gray Sugarkids flats

Gold and Silver Sugarkids ballet flats and mary janes

Bow embellished ballerina flats from Sugarkids

Peacock feather mary janes by Sugarkids

Sunday LifeStyle

Scones and songs at Bianca Zobel's bridal shower

Iñigo and Maricris' daughter is feted by friends—and her future groom shows up, too



BIANCA Zobel and Chris Marsi

BIANCA ZOBEL, daughter of Iñigo and Maricris Zobel, will marry Chris Marsi on Jan. 6, 2012, in a much-anticipated wedding that will begin the year.

In the meantime, about 13 of her closest friends feted the bride-to-be at an afternoon shower with a high tea theme, with bed and bath presents, at Mariani's Makati last November 17.

Guests nibbled on savories, delectable sweets like rosewater scones with blueberry jam, and pork sandwiches served on tiered tea trays, and sipped Earl Grey tea, Lavazza coffee and peach iced tea, all by Bizu.

Bianca, who wore a feminine, lacy tiered dress and was made up by Steven Dobson, was the subject of some fun and games among her friends, in a program hosted by Mariani's Kik Hausleutner.



MENU



TIERED tea trays



BIANCA Zobel and Rita Ugarte



NICOLE de los Santos, Bianca Zobel, Anna Tuason, Aida Guerrero



BIANCA and groom

Scones and songs at Bianca Zobel's bridal shower



OSANG Yulo, Dina Tantoco, Bianca Zobel, Bia Prieto



TABLE setting

From page G1

Among the questions fielded to check how well her friends knew the bride: what are Bianca's favorite place [illegible], cologne [illegible], lip balm [illegible], place abroad [illegible], sport and music [illegible].

The ladies also had a field day playing "Name that Tune" with Bianca's favorite songs—among them, Beyonce's "Single Ladies" and Nat King Cole's "Unforgettable."

Groom-to-be Chris Wurtz dropped by unexpectedly at the end of the shower, despite having his arm in a sling, truly making Bianca's day.



ANNA Tuason and Tina Cruz



BIANCA, Maddie and Rocio Zobel



MARGA Nihamura



SOPHIE Nihamura



BIANCA Zobel



NICOLE de los Santos



MARICRIS Zobel and Carol Wadhwa-Garcia



BAY Romero-Sabe and Bia Prieto


SM HYPERMARKET
MARKETMALL
Dasmariñas, Cavite
Happy to Serve!
NOW OPEN
HYPERMARKET
MARKETMALL
Win instant prizes daily
LOW PRICE
BUY me
INSTANT PRIZE
Select items
BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
Value Pack
up to 80% OFF
VITRESS
ALASKA
Lactum
SUNSILK
Gluta-C
Nestlé
Downy
kojie-san
Surf
CASINO
Johnson's baby
FRESH MILK



YAMAHA
Make It Different
YAMAHA 3S SHOP
EXCLUSIVE
Yamaha Christmas Surprise
Buy selected motorcycles & get any of these 4 exciting prizes!
APPLE iPod Shuffle
SAMSUNG
AMERICAN HOME
Actual items may vary in color.
YAMAHA
Mechanics:
Visit the nearest 3S Shop on your area!
Promo period is from Nov. 1, 2011 to Jan. 31, 2012
www.yamaha-motor.com.ph

IN THIS ISSUE

'The pain now is part of the happiness then.' That's the deal /D4

Sunday Lifestyle

A Russian-themed Christmas for my home

OUR HOME is finally all decked out for the holidays, just in time for the lighting of the third Advent candle. In short, we're very late!

Christmas cheer came late this year because of my very busy social and work schedule. Also, I couldn't think of a theme for our Christmas décor. Other people might think that a good theme might be "Christmas," but don't just me easy. I always want to have a theme within a theme.

And, like an apparition, our Christmas theme flashed before my eyes. As I stood in front of the giant metallic blue Christmas tree of the Radisson Blu Hotel in Cebu, it struck me—Russia would be the subtheme this year, incorporating blue and white elements to create a winter wonderland, evoking feelings of the Bolshoi and Swan Lake.

Indeed, the Radisson Blu is a great Christmas destination. The hotel formally opened the holiday season with a ceremonial lighting of the 20-foot tall tree. The occasion was livened up by a performance of the Radisson Choir.

It's hard to believe the evening was also the first anniversary of the Radisson Blu already. To celebrate, the hotel threw a Cotton Club-inspired party, attended by the cream of Cebu's business leaders, socialites and media personalities.

With an art deco motif, the ballroom was transformed into a Roaring '20s era Cotton Club, with female guests gamely clad in flapper costumes, feather boas and [illegible] headdresses, and the men in fedoras and [illegible].

Cebu fashion designer Ronald Enri[illegible] me up in character, creating a [illegible], while maverick stylist Jessie [illegible] whipped up my hair and makeup for the night. Jessie was also chosen as one of the best costumed guests that evening.

Top-ranked destination

The hotel has accomplished so much in just one year. It is consistently top-ranked on TripAdvisor.com and it truly one of the country's leading hotels. Lyle Lewis, Radisson's general manager and Carlson Hotels' VP for Philippines and Japan, has much to be proud of. The hotel's market share among Cebu hotels is steadily increasing and guest satisfaction scores among the highest in the Carlson Hotel portfolio of properties.

Elizabeth Sy, SM Hotels and Conventions Corp.'s president, led a joint toast along with her brother, Hans Sy, SM Investments Corp.'s president, and Simon Barlow, Carlson Hotels Asia Pacific's president. The three presidents then awarded a three-night stay in the Radisson Blu's Executive Suite to the best-dressed guests, [illegible] of Amazing Cebu and socialite [illegible].

Lovely Yvette was one of our Cebu friends who supported the Red Charity Gala, together with Zee Magazine editor Rea Gallos.

Rea is hosting the Crystal Ball of Zee Magazine on Dec. 15, and I will be sure to head to Cebu for that! There's lots of holiday excitement happening at the Radisson Blu.

(Call [illegible]/www.radissonblu.com/hotel-cebu.)

Hundred-strong stars

One of the best parts of Radisson Blu is that it is adjacent to SM Cebu, the 11th largest mall in the world. Right after the Radisson party my Cebu best friends Abigail, [illegible], Pauline, Haley and Marcie [illegible] took me to SM to check out the Christmas Village that was to be unveiled the next day. The village homes are pledged for the benefit of chosen [illegible] kids afflicted with cancer.

After all the merriment in Cebu, I headed home for more parties and events. One of the festive ones was the [illegible] party celebrating with its hundred-strong stars, top-billed by the original superstar, Nora Aunor, and the megastar as well, Sharon Cuneta. [illegible] president Ray Espinosa looked so happy to have his stable of tal-

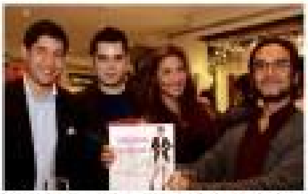
RUSSIAN-THEMED D4



Thanks to the fab 1-year-old Radisson Blu Hotel in Cebu for the inspiration!

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdez





VICTOR Basa, Raymond Gutierrez, Bubbles Paraiso, Mark Mirabe



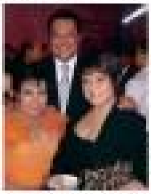
JENNI Epperson, Tim Yap and the rest of "team Jennisation"



RADISSON Blu Hotel guests Jessie Sterio, Malu Esguerra, Sea Princess, Yvette Yuzo, Abigail Ngo, Pauline Nalzo

A Russian-themed Christmas for my home

From page H3



TV5 SUPERSTAR Nora Aunor, EVP Bobby Barreiro and Ritchie Benedicto

ones all around, excitedly looking forward to the challenges of 2012.

Another fun event was HSBC's traditional fiesta lunch at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, hosted by Tony Cripps, HSBC's president. It was even more fun as I got to host the raffle with Joanna Garcia, HSBC's head of communications and corporate sustainability. As always, HSBC's raffles are something to look forward to—after all, they are the one of biggest banks in the world!

Product launches

In between holiday parties, there are still product launches going on, such as the recent book launch of "Face to Face: The Healing Power of Make-up" by Bianca Valerio, TV host, live presenter, product endorser, model, make-up artist, newspaper contributor, online columnist and personality development coach.

Bianca is a marvel at everything she does, and her new tome is a fantastic example, featuring a cast of everyday people and celebrities, and how make-up transforms them.

Xandra Ramos-Padilla, National Book Store's merchandising director, told me that they were happy to be the publisher of Bianca's inspirational coffee-table book, and that of another new author, Jenni Epperson.

Blogger, celebrity stylist and fashion writer Jenni offers a guide for women who want to plan and host fabulous affairs for every occasion—"Fashion + Food: Celebrating Special Occasions in Style." The book also features photography by her hubby Tom Epperson, book design and layout by Dia Perez and illustrations by Soleil Ignacio and Kate Alvarez.

(Visit jenniepperson.com).

When I have time to catch my breath, I just love checking out YouTube videos. The current viral hit is Coca-Cola's OPM Project. It's always great to see examples of Pinoy creativity. The soda marketer is creating more holiday buzz by teaming up with another brilliant marketing powerhouse, Jollibee. Both are offering their popular Christmas "Sparkles" promotion once again.

The Coca-Cola Christmas "Sparkles" promo is just the sort of offer that gets mileage in a very real way at Jollibee outlets. Check it out, as there are only three days left to make happiness in the mall by getting these useful collectibles.

Yeah, the holidays have truly arrived in a flash! I hope the spirit of Advent comes into all our celebrations this year!

Follow Tessa on Twitter @tessvaldes or e-mail tessprieto@magnum.com.ph



HSBC Christmas party friends Abel Manzano, Sea Princess, Johanna Garcia



TV5 "Sosyalera" team Xander Orendain, Trixie Jornales, Joby Baltazar, Sea Princess, Happy Pangilinan, Jeanie Barcega, Divine Lee, Marlon Montemagno



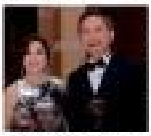
SM INVESTMENTS Corp. president Harry Sy and SM Hotels & Convention Corp. president Elizabeth Sy



THE EPPERSONS: A touching moment between daughter Arjanna and Jenni with husband Tom and son Dylan



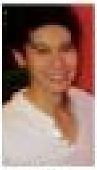
Inquirer President Sandy Romualdez, National Book Store's Xandra Ramos-Padilla



SM Hotels & Convention Corp. EVP Mike Villar and wife Carol



WONDERwomen: Jenni Epperson and Bianca Valerio, with Xandra Ramos-Padilla, hold their books published by National Book Store.



HAPPINESS Ambassador Boobsey Diaz



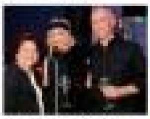
INSPIRING people: Author Bianca Valerio and Sea Princess with the subjects in the book



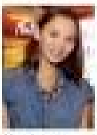
RADISSON Blu Hotel marketing communications assistant director Mitos Garrovillo, Carlson Hotels Asia-Pacific AVP Karsten Mathe-Hartig



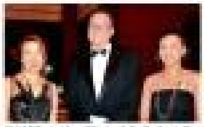
DIVINE Lee, Victor Basa, Malu Esguerra and Sea Princess



SM Prime Holdings Corp. VP MERISSA Fernan, Yvette and Dell Yao



AMINA Aranaz-Alunan



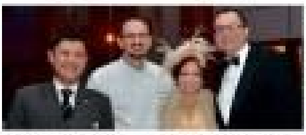
SMHCC president Elizabeth Sy, Radisson Blu Hotel Cebu general manager Lyle Lewis, SMHCC business development VP Christine Bautista



CYRIL and Amy Gopalo



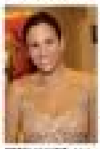
CHAP executives: President Simon Barlow, revenue generation EVP Lucinda Barnett, human resources EVP Rosie Nathan, EVP and CFO Vance Zaragoza



FAB DIRECTOR Fu Kok Fu, executive chef Marco Amarosa, Sea Princess, GM Lyle Lewis



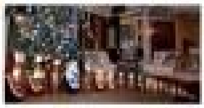
MODELS Valerie de los Santos, Isabel Roces, Sea Princess, Raya Manuel, National Book Store's Xandra Ramos-Padilla



STEPHANIE Zubiri



CEBU Representatives Cielo del Mar and Ampolito Uneliter



RUSSIAN Christmas decor with specially crafted Matryoshka dolls in Radisson Blu Cebu

Canadian and Japanese nights in Cebu



Jotham Piccinelli

OVER 700 attended the Christmas gathering of Canadians and Friends of Canada on Dec. 1 at the Cebu Grand Convention Center. Present as he was last year, and as were his predecessors, was the Ambassador of Canada, **Christopher Thornley**.

According to everyone were Canada's honorary consul in Cebu, **Robert Lee**, and his wife **Anna**, who organize this event yearly. It gets better and bigger every time. The evening is highlighted by speeches, Christmas carols and a raffle that lasts practically all night. There were door prizes.

Welcome remarks were delivered by Robert Lee who thanked the many sponsors, donors and guests. "This is the 18th year of the gathering," he said.

Ambassador Thornley said it was indeed a pleasure to be present, "and in such wonderful company. Thank you, Robert and Anna, you are such an energetic couple."

He further said, "Consul Robert and Anna don't want to be recognized for their work, but I must say that they have been very generous with the free private. They have shown admirable dedication to the protection and welfare of Canadian citizens and they have been great in instrumental in deepening the relations between Canada and Cebu. They are our ambassadors in the Visayas."

There was great applause to that and to what followed.

Ambassador Thornley recognized the presence of Ambassador **Francisco Benedicto**, who has served as the Philippines' ambassador to several countries (Singapore, Korea, Brazil, India and China, among them). "He spent seven years in Canada," he pointed out, "where he is very well-loved by all, and not just the Filipino community."

The occasion was also for the signing of a partnership agreement between the Canadian Welding Bureau, represented by Craig Martin, and Primary Structures Educational Foundation, represented by **William Liu Jr.** and his wife **Paulette Dalupan-Liu**.

We had quite a lively time at our table. In it were the Canadian Embassy's **Stephen H. Amy**, Soccer Sabga and **Esther Velasquez**, UK Honorary Consul **Moya Jackson**, Cebu Business Club president **Ronald Joseph** and Canada workers **Nonito Navarro**, **Lanon Garcia**, and **Catherine Rivera**, escorted by her husband **Ben Rivera**, who lives in General Santos City.

Japanese affair

Next evening, on Dec. 2, it was the ambassador of Japan, **Toshinao Urabe**, who hosted a reception at Marco Polo Plaza Hotel to mark the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor Akihito.

Friends of Canada gather, and a party marks Emperor Akihito's 78th birthday

Greeting the numerous guests as they filed through the reception line were Ambassador Urabe and his wife Masako, and Japan's Consul in Cebu **Yoshiaki Hata** with his wife **Setsuko**.

Consul Hata gave the welcome remarks. He said the Emperor is now 78 years of age. He expressed his appreciation for all the support given his office by the Cebuanos and Japanese communities since he arrived early this year.

Ambassador Urabe began his speech with greetings in Tagalog and Cebuano. He has been to Cebu three times in the last six months, and has made many friends. He led the toast to the good health of Emperor Akihito and the continued friendship between the Philippines and Japan.

Representing Cebu Province was Vice Governor **Agnes Magpale**, who delivered an eloquent message, congratulating Japan for its recovery from the March 11 disaster. "If the earthquake was strong, the Japanese people have proved to be stronger. We admire their industry and tenacity," she said.

Guests enjoyed the buffet of Japanese specialties. There was also a delicious-looking hot soup of noodles and shrimps.

Among the notables present were Cebu City Mayor **Michael Rama**, Ambassador Benedicto, Department of Foreign Affairs Cebu office head **Elias Bulawog**, his predecessor **Angel Espiritu**, who is now Cebu City Hall's consultant for diplomatic affairs, and the Save International officers Carmen Go and Bonnie Sanchez.

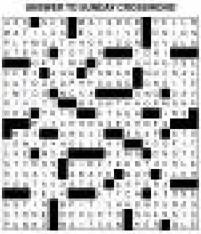
There was a good representation from Cebu Consular Corps, led by its chairperson, Russian Federation Honorary Consul **Armel Rabaya**, the vice chairperson, Honorary Consul of Germany **Franz Seidenschwarz** with his wife **Elisabeth**, and the secretary, UK Honorary Consul **Moya Jackson**, escorted by husband **Antony Jackson**.

Also present were the consul general of the People's Republic of China and madame **He Shijing**; Honorary Consul of France **Michel Lhuillier** with his wife **Amparito**, and Alliance Française de Cebu director **Louis Theverin**; Honorary Consul of Sweden **Jose Soliz** with his wife **Susan**; Honorary Consul of Romania **Daniel Benedicto**; Honorary Consul of Canada Robert Lee and his wife Anna; Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic **Antonio Chiu** and his wife **Nelia**; Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic **Philippe Go**; and Consular Agent of the US **John Domingo**.

Heirlooms and antiques showroom opens







BUYCO HEIRLOOMS, Antiques and Arts & Crafts recently opened at Kamagong cor. Banuyo Streets in San Antonio Village, Makati. Owned and operated by Gedeon Buyco and his mother, the former Florentina Velez Lozanon, the showroom is an upgrade of the Buycos' former Mercedelia Arts & Crafts, which occupied nearly the entire third floor of Atrium building in Makati Avenue from the early '90s till 1998.



FURNITURE pieces with semiprecious-stone inlays; opium bed

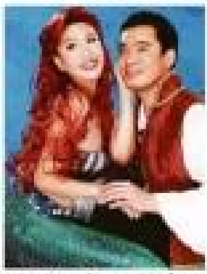
The Buycos, originally from Occidental Negros, started the business in their native Bacolod in 1950 with Gedeon's aunt Flora Lozanon Palafox, who ran a jewelry store that made available to affluent Negrense sugar barons precious finds such as Thailand diamonds, as well as furniture pieces with semiprecious-stone inlays and rare Ching Dynasty porcelain jars.

The new Buyco showroom in Makati occupies a 2-story building with a total area of 600 sq m. The ground floor houses big-ticket items like tables, armoires, chests and opium beds, and Gedeon's extensive collection of blue-and-white jars.

The second-floor gallery displays accent pieces like Nepalese masks, serving trays, bird cages, chandeliers and grandfather clocks. Talking points are a bronze Buddha with silver inlay and a 150-year-old Chinese desk, side by side with a set of Ming Dynasty water jars that took Gedeon two years to complete.

Buyco Heirlooms, Antiques and Arts & Crafts is at 9447 Kamagong St. cor. Banuyo St., San Antonio Village, Makati; tel. 8830021.

'Little Mermaid' musical on its last weekend



RACHELLE Ann as Princess Ariel, Erik Santos as Prince Eric in "The Little Mermaid"

[illegible]

What's Up

Discovery Country Suites Christmas

[illegible]



OXFORD Suite at Discovery Country Suites Tagaytay

[illegible]

'Mamma Mia!' in CCP

[illegible]

'Defending the Caveman'

[illegible]

Sun Annyeong Korea SIM card

[illegible]





NOW FOODS IN WATSONS

[illegible]



Sunday LIFESTYLE

"Rizal is an endearing and charming province, and there is nothing like its people. Rizaleyos are warm, conservative and artistic town folks, many of whom are simple, loving, hospitable, and truly delightful. They are people with a lot of respect and honor."

RIZAL First Lady at the My City, My SM launch at SM City Taytay with Rizal Gov. Jun-Jun Ynares, well-known artist Nemiranda, SM vice president for Marketing Millie Dizon, and Joan Gacula, wife of Taytay Mayor Joric Gacula.



"The Petroglyphs in Angono are a must for Rizal visitors. The site is famous for its rock engravings that date back to 3,000 BC, and has been included in the World Inventory of Rock Art under Unesco."

DISCOVERED by National Artist Carlos "Botong" Francisco in 1965, the Petroglyphs in Angono are said to date back to 3,000 BC. Consisting of 127 drawings of human and animal figures, it is the most ancient prehistoric work of Philippine art. Archaeological finds of fragments of earthenware, obsidian flakes and shells have also been found in the area. Presidential Decree 260 declared the Petroglyphs as a National Cultural Treasure.

Andrea Bautista Ynares and her Rizal

"If I would bring visitors around Rizal, I take them to the breathtaking Parish in the Sky, where the Christ the King Parish, which is said to be one of the oldest churches in Rizal, is located on top of a hill. This is a wonderful place to commune with God."



GOVERNOR Jun-Jun and Andrea with daughters Cassandra Daniella and Rebecca Victoria in front of the Christ the King Parish in Mayon, Taytay, Rizal. Also known as the Parish in the Sky, it is located on top of a hill with an awesome 360-degree panoramic view.

ALTHOUGH Andrea Bautista Ynares originally hails from Cavite, where she is part of prominent show-biz and political clan of the Revillas, marriage to then Rizal representative and now Gov. Jun-Jun Ynares brought her to Rizal, a place she has grown to love and now considers home.

Andrea started to discover the province during her courtship days with her husband, and "when Jun and I decided to build a family, Rizal grew on me."

It was not difficult to love the province named after national hero, Dr. José Rizal, as it

ANDREA/2









BALAW Kainangan's ... [illegible]

Savor the flavors of Rizal

Seafood and native delicacies are among the culinary highlights of a food trip

By [illegible]

THE ALL-[illegible] Bahay Kubo may have a wide range of vegetables, but Taytay's Bahay Kainangan has an array of dishes that will surely bring you to [illegible] heaven.

You haven't experienced "eating" if you haven't tried their [illegible] options of seafood, meat and dessert.

Start your meal with their Adobong Pusit sa Gata, and don't forget to blanket your rice with the sauce. [illegible]

Continue your seafood indulgence with their fresh-tasting [illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible]



ENSALADANG Mangga



CRISPY [illegible]



BOUGAINVILLEA Salad

...so tender you can tear it with a fork, and the accompanying cabbage has the right texture [illegible]

To top this heavenly experience, try Bahay Kainangan's Leche Flan and you'll literally scream for more. It's [illegible] creamier and will satisfy your sweet tooth.

Bahay Kainangan is at [illegible], Taytay, Rizal. For inquiries, call [illegible].



ADOBONG Pusit sa Gata





ADOBONG Baboy at Manok

Folk food, folk art

Every art gallery in Angono has a story, but Balaw Balaw restaurant owes its story to the gallery inside it.

What started off as Perdigon Vocalan's simple canteen became Angono's most visited restaurant. [illegible]

[illegible]

Are you someone with a green thumb? Then you should try Balaw-Balaw's Bougainvillea Salad, [illegible]

[illegible]

The Three Musketeers will surely feast [illegible] "All for One" with Balaw-Balaw's [illegible]. [illegible]

Balaw-Balaw is at 16 Doña Aurora Village, Angono Highway, Angono, Rizal. For inquiries, call [illegible].

"The Baras Church is another tourist attraction I would like to bring visitors to."

CONSIDERED one of the oldest churches in the area, the Baras Church was completed in [illegible]. [illegible]





ANDREA at Balaw Balaw, a charming restaurant cum art gallery owned by the late Perdigon Vocalan. [illegible]

"The Balaw Balaw Specialty Restaurant cum gallery in Angono is a must-stop for foodies. While their specialty is Burong Balaw Balaw or fermented shrimp, they also have a wonderful variety of freshwater fish. This is where Jun Jun and I used to date during our courtship years, and now that we have a family, we still enjoy the restaurant's warmth and good Filipino food with our daughters."

Andrea Bautista Ynares and her Rizal

"The opening of SM City Taytay has brought Rizaleños a new city to explore. Knowing that an SM Mall is nearby gives you a sense of security and confidence with the knowledge that you have all you need within your reach. SM also has been very helpful in providing venues for our art and tourism centered projects, as well as community efforts."



SM CITY Taytay has brought great shopping, leisure and [illegible]

From page [illegible]

[illegible]

When she became First Lady of Rizal, Andrea discovered how her past experiences complemented her new role. [illegible]

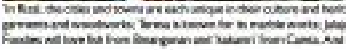
[illegible]

Today, as Rizal's First Lady, she [illegible]



"Malling in SM is like leisurely walking in your favorite village or park. All shops, facilities and services are within range. I especially like shopping in Watsons, because of its fast service. This is very important to busy people with fast paced, multitasking lives."

ANDREA makes a [illegible] stop at the Watsons store in SM City Taytay.



A SHOWCASE of some of Rizal's best: garments and woodworks from Taytay, marble from Teresa, dairy products from Jalajala, freshwater fishes from Binangonan and delicious kakanin from Cainta.

"In Rizal, the cities and towns are each unique in their culture and heritage. Taytay has long been famous for its garments and woodworks; Teresa is known for its marble works; Jalajala is our province's dairy capital. Foodies will love fish from Binangonan and 'kakanin' from Cainta. And there's so much more."



BLANCO FAMILY MUSEUM

312 Ibanez St., Barangay San Roque, Angono, Rizal; tel. 6519040, 0920-6736855

José "Pitok" V. Blanco is a self-taught Filipino painter who finished Fine Arts in the University of Santo Tomas in 1955. He passed on his skills to wife Loreto or "Loring," and their seven kids Glenn, Noel, Michael, Joy Jon, Ray and Peter Paul. Michael took over managing the museum upon the patriarch's death in 2006. He took us around the museum, which was put up in 1980, two years after the family's first group exhibit.

Michael explained how the entire family got into painting. "My father is a disciplinarian. He taught us how to paint, and watched how we worked, guiding us until we figured out our own motivations," he said.

All the kids would follow a painting schedule: 9-11, lunch, then 1-5, pretty much like going to the office. The father didn't require the kids to take up art-related courses, believing they would learn how to paint anyway, so they might as well take up something they really wanted.

Michael added that his father discouraged painting at night because it is bad for their eyes. On non-painting days, the family used to go the countryside, jogging or traveling together.

There are over 400 artworks in the museum. Paintings are arranged by the age of the artist, from the youngest to oldest. The first work you'll notice is the colorful doodle done by Peter Paul when he was only 11 months old.



HIGANTI papier-mâché

Michael points out at the signatures of his siblings on the paintings done in awkward letters, which indicated that they learned how to work with colors even before they could perfect writing their names.

The younger-generation Blancos are also into the arts, he said, but not all of them are into painting. Some are into photography and Ikegen framing arts. On the second floor of the museum is an audio-visual room for this purpose, which hosts lectures and events.

Also in the gallery lobby are higantes, colorful giant papier-mâché figures usually paraded during the Higantes Festival celebrated during the town fiesta in November. This room's stars are already made of fiberglass, added Michael, which lasts longer than paper.



"ANGONO Town Fiesta," by José V. Blanco

BOTONG FRANCISCO MUSEUM AND DOÑA AURORA STREET

National Artist Carlos "Botong" V. Francisco is a distinguished muralist known for his works such as "Blood Compact," "First Mass at Limasawa" and "The Martyrdom of Pilak." The house where he used to live and work was converted into a museum. There you can see his personal items, such as hats and belts, some framed studies of his murals. Paintings by his grandson Carlos "Totong" Francisco II are mounted in the gallery by the entrance.

The walls on the streets of Doña Aurora Street, where the museum stands, are dotted with street murals to honor the National Artist.

In 1965, Botong also discovered the Angono Petroglyphs, ancient cave markings believed to be among the oldest artworks in the country.



CLOCKWISE from top: Carlos "Totong" Francisco II by his painting; easel and canvas of National Artist Carlos "Botong" V. Francisco; street art rendering of Botong's works on Doña Aurora Street

An art tour of Angono

PHOTOS BY ISABEL PEREZ

From a family gallery to a National Artist's museum, find them a short drive from Metro Manila

By Irene C. Perez

ANGONO, a first-class urban municipality in Rizal province, is regarded as the "art capital of the Philippines" for housing several galleries and being a venue for workshops. Get to know your local artists and take an art tour of Angono, a quaint place that is near Metro Manila but still has that relaxed suburban vibe.



BALAW-BALAW SPECIALTY RESTAURANT AND ART CAFE

16 Doña Aurora St., Doña Aurora Village, Angono, Rizal

Balaw-Balaw is an art gallery-restaurant known for serving exotic and traditional Filipino food in a distinctly bohemian setting. The dining area on the ground floor features a pocket garden, while the gallery on the second and third floors showcases paintings, sculptures, religious art.

Manager Andre Vocalan took us around and showed the collection that his family has acquired over the years: his father's satirical paintings, life-size "Last Supper" made up of seven sculptures, decapitated heads of the Virgin and Mary and Jesus propped on a tree trunk—unpainted rejects from a factory that makes images for churches. Some of Vocalan's resin sculptures are also on display.



BALAW-BALAW restaurant (inset) with folk-art themes; life-size "Huling Hapunan" display on the second-floor gallery

NEMIRANDA GALLERY

10 Doña Elena St., Doña Juana Phase 1 Subd., Brgy. San Roque, Angono, Rizal; tel. 6518 869

Nemiranda, a painter and sculptor, is one of the founding artists of Angono Ambassadors Association, Rizal Arts Federation, Angono Foundation for Tourism and the Arts, and Angono Tourism Council. He is regarded as the "father of Imaginative Figurism." He does his paintings with themes of family, culture, local color and rural life. A few meters from the gallery–café is Art Camp, where he gives workshops during summer.





GALLERY façade



"LOCKET" paintings on door in Nemiranda Gallery; workshops are held at Art Camp during summers.



FUNCTIONAL ART

This swing made of recycled wood can be ordered in Jaia, one of the woodwork shops along Manila East Road, Barangay Dolores, Taytay, Rizal.





History and watersports go together



PORTION of the petroglyphs' 127 drawings

Visit the Angono petroglyphs and jump into the water at Club Manila East







Yuletide summer

Sunday LifeStyle

Sexy. Stimulating. Sage. Survivor

SHARING THE VOICE OF AGE AND WISDOM



CHRISTMAS HOME PAGEANT

Creating rituals

Gilda Cordero Fernando

Instead of a funeral hearse, a grandancle was brought to the burial ground on the ornate four-poster bed on which he died. How can you beat such drama!



FOREVER 81

EARLY ON, I was already showing the grandchildren how to make rituals for certain happenings in their lives. When Rafa was 4, he mourned the death of his pet turtle and retreated to his bedroom in solitary self-confinement.

Creating rituals



I have become free at Christmas

Chit Roces



NOT QUITE THERE

Sometimes the old fruitcake habit tugs at me, but it remains, unacted on, no more than a nice memory

Christmas surprises



Marikina concert to raise funds for church construction

What I miss most about life in the US

It's the diversity of the population that makes it impossible to close your mind to the world

I heard sirens, not carols, one Christmas Eve

There was a welcome silence on the streets of Manila. And then we heard the scraping of soldiers' feet on the pavement

Conchita C. Razon



MY CHAIR ROCKS

Elegant gentleman

There's a wet, soupy noodle on my mind

Margarita Ordoñez



GUT FEEL

Ma Mon Luk's 'mami' chef wore a dirty-white 'camisa chino,' looking sweaty, thanks to broth vapor and smoke from boiling cauldrons and 'siopao' bamboo

Mecca for comfort food

Age-appropriate, as always

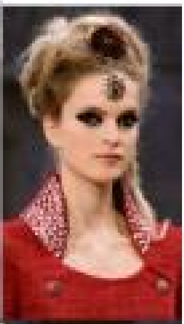
Dressing well, the Chanel way

By Larry Leviste



DETOUR THE EYE.

COCO CHIC.



HIGH COLLAR.

THINK 'TING TING'



IN THIS ISSUE
■ **Which events and people** will you remember 2011 for? /C1

Sunday LIFESTYLE



What the third secret of Our Lady of Fatima really says

Can we still avert disasters? Can we still invoke Marian intervention through prayers and penance? It's all up to us

By Bernie Lopez
Contributor

THIS IS the first of two parts celebrating the anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun on Oct. 13, 1917, which marked the climax of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima before the first two world wars. Here, we uncover the myths perpetuated by anti-Marian and atheists groups, and clarifies the apparition's true message.

On Oct. 13, 1917, 70,000 [illegible] people gathered at the Cova da Iria in Fatima to view a miracle promised by Our Lady.

"Then all saw the clouds part, and the sun appear like a great disk of white fire." [illegible]

It is strange how the Third Secret of Fatima is today surrounded by deceptions and attacks that undermine its true message. For example, a History Channel documentary claimed that part of the Third Secret is still secret, that only 25 of the 62 lines of the original manuscript was revealed. This is not true. If you look at the official Vatican website, you will see all 62 lines. Visit this link and see for yourself: [illegible]

The Fatima messages are the subject of attacks from anti-Marian groups, who do not believe we should pray to Our Lady. [illegible]

E-mail deception

Another deception is an e-mail that has been circulating for years, saying one must buy blessed candles to be spared. Only blessed candles can be lit during the three days of darkness, so on, etc.

The blessed candles are not part of the original Fatima messages. [illegible]

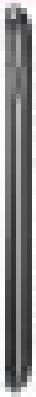
It speaks of "a great earthquake [illegible]" [illegible]

The e-mail says: [illegible]

[illegible]







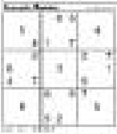


All-in-one, mash-up, hybri smartphone spells conveni

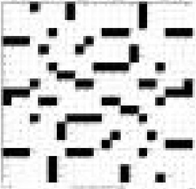
Rather than having separate units for phone, music player, tablet, e-book reader, gaming console and planner, you can have the Samsung Galaxy Note



SUDOKU



Sunday Crossword



What the third secret of Our Lady of Fa

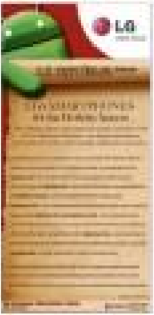
d–this

ence







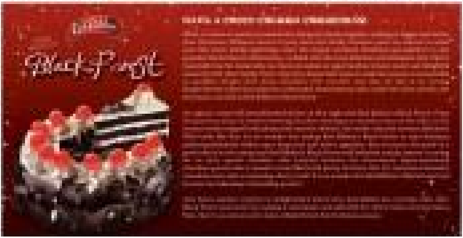


ima really says

GRATITUDE & US FOR THE PERFECT THANKSGIVING RECIPE

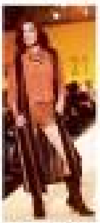




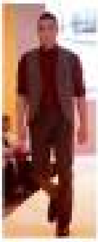


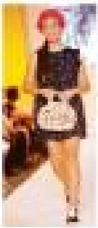
Fashion lovers bust down the door in Cebu

Guests young and old flocked to Forever21 at SM Cebu–all 2,836 square meters of it



LATEST Forever21 collection on the runway







RIBBON CUTTING ceremony







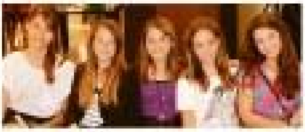












What the third secret . . .

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Emmie G. Velarde

INSIDE

- Pinoys can learn from 'Dancing with the Stars' Viewfinder /M1
- Hunky Star gets 'home service' from colleague's favorite Rushes /M1

Meryl on 'Streep Tease' and Margaret Thatcher



MERYL Streep: "I've always had empathy for older people."

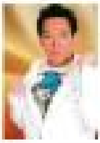
LOS ANGELES—Meryl Streep, beautiful in a red cowl neck sweater and black pants, preferred to stand up for most of our interview in a New York hotel.

"I am so preternaturally plated because of my traveling," the legendary actress explained. With a smile and that mellifluous voice, she said, "I was at the Kennedy Center till 3 o'clock in the morning, drinking with the Obamas and all these [illegible] I'm sorry." Looming over us, and with a majestic chandelier above her, Meryl seemed larger than life.

She gives a stunning performance as Margaret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady," an intimate portrait of the first and only female prime minister of the United Kingdom. Phyllida Lloyd, who directed Meryl in "Mamma Mia!," is also behind "The Iron Lady," which features Jim Broadbent and Olivia Colman as Margaret Thatcher's husband and daughter, Denis and Carol, respectively. Abi Morgan wrote the screenplay which also shows Thatcher's struggle with dementia in her later years.

With her wit and humor, Meryl answered all our questions, including that one about Filipino-American actor Rey Cruz's brainchild, "Streep Tease," a paean to some of

MERYL/A2

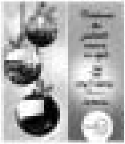


John 'Sweet' Lapus
Comedian-TV host
"I WISH for more honest stars. [illegible]" —Marinel R. Cruz

WISHLIST

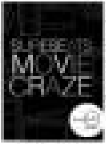
Meryl on 'Streep Tease' and Margaret Thatcher



















LEO MARTINEZ

Academy bats for films based on Filipino literature

By Marinel R. Cruz

Mon David in repeat with AMP Band Dec. 19 at Peta Theater



MON DAVID reprises his Gaming Club show.

Katy Perry at MOA



KATY Perry

Avril Lavigne at Big Dome

Flying Circus at SMX

Pico de Loro shows



AVRIL Lavigne

RWM's Grand Fiesta 2011

Dec. 17, 18

Dec. 29

Jan. 12

Jan. 26

Jan. 28

Meryl on 'Streep Tease' and Margaret Thatcher



ENTERTAINMENT



Tirso Cruz III

WISHLIST

Hunky Star gets 'home service'

By the Entertainment Staff

RUSHES

Office romance

Cry me a river

Toxic frenemy



Little Miss Boring

Sound advice

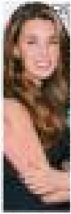


Sarah moves on, pursues 'deeper' acting

Hunky Star...



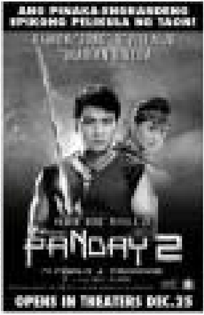




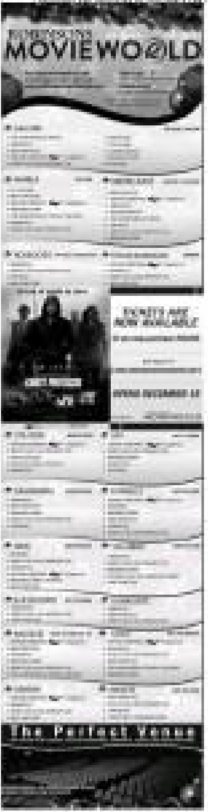







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ENTERTAINMENT



What our TV performers can learn from 'Dancing with the Stars'

PITTSBURGH-born ... Hines Ward performs with his partner ... on "Dancing with the Stars."



Jed Madela

Singer

"THE ENTERTAINMENT industry has been ... This Christmas, I hope the industry picks up ..."

Marichel B. Cruz

WISHLIST



VIEWING

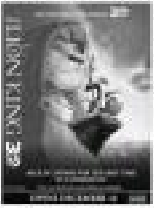
Nestor U. Torre

Rigorous work ethic

Demanding challenge



Five unflinching movie



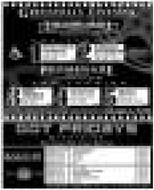


es about alcoholism

















Daniel Radcliffe

'Entertainer of the Year'

LOS ANGELES—"Harry Potter" star Daniel Radcliffe was named Entertainment Weekly's "Entertainer of the Year" on Wednesday, capping a successful 2011 for the young actor.

Radcliffe, 22, took his final turn as the boy wizard in "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows—Part 2," the last installment of the film franchise, earlier this year.

The film crossed the $1 billion threshold at the global box office as fans rushed to see their favorite wizard battle evil for the last time.

The "Harry Potter" star also broke out of his magical role to take on Broadway in the musical "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," stepping into the shoes of stage veterans Robert Morse and Matthew Broderick and receiving positive critical reviews for his performance.

Radcliffe was joined on Entertainment Weekly's list by British singer Adele and "X-Men" actor Hugh Jackman. The full list is available on newsstands. *Reuters*

Did You Know...

Viloria vs Segura

GMA Network, Inc. airs "Laban ng Lahi Presents Silent Assassin 3: Viloria vs Segura," Filipino boxing champion Brian "The Hawaiian Punch" Viloria's defense of his WBO Flyweight Championship title against Mexican boxer Giovanni Segura, live from the Ynares Sports Complex in Pasig starting 7 a.m. today.

"I've sparred with Segura in the past and we beat the hell out of each other," said Viloria. "It was the kind of sparring where we could have charged the audience for admission fee and they wouldn't have complained."

He added, "Segura is a very dangerous opponent for me but if I beat him, I'll get to keep my title and grab the slot in Ring's pound-for-pound rankings."

Click!

my|phone introduces the Philippines' first mobile phone that can detect fake money

Mahirap talaga kumita ng pera

my|phone knows that every Filipino works hard to earn a living. Every peso counts, especially now with Christmas just around the corner.

In these times, more than ever, no one can afford to be a victim of counterfeit money, most especially the small business owners and start-up company owners.

Next to having your very own CSI team checking every P500 or P1,000 bill that you earn, the best way to check the authenticity of your hard-earned money is to use a UV light. UV lights are the most sophisticated detectors available to the public.

But most UV lights aren't portable and at around P3,000 each, are hardly affordable.

That's why my|phone, who has always brought technology to the masses at affordable prices, has equipped its B88 Duo with a patented UV light system. This is the world's first mobile phone equipped with an ultraviolet light.

With the UV light, you can check immediately if the money you've received is authentic. That means you can catch a fake instantly, avoiding the hassle of having to check them at the bank.

Also, it's simple to use - all you have to do is aim the light at the bill and it will reveal the security markings that are embedded in Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' authenticated bills.

The B88 Duo can also detect other fake and sensitive documents like passports, driver's licenses, credit cards and foreign banknotes - basically anything that has a UV watermark and embedded security fibers that are visible only under ultraviolet light.

But more than just a counterfeit money detector, the B88 Duo is fully loaded with its dual SIM feature, camera, wireless FM radio, video player, music player and 8GB microSD card slot. At an unbelievable price of P888, there is no doubt that the my|phone B88 Duo is all about giving value for money to price-conscious Filipinos.

Only Orig for the Orig!

Whether it's identifying original, authentic money (B88 Duo) or bringing in original new technology (they were the first to bring Dual SIM technology to the Philippines), even promoting original Pinoy music (Music Album Phone) and creating original content (Pinoy Phone Apps), my|phone supports everything original.

This is why my|phone supports the government's campaign against counterfeit money through the new B88 Duo anti fake money phone. With this first-of-its-kind mobile phone, my|phone would like to give Filipinos the means to avoid being tricked into accepting or using fake money.

It's a cause that even the ABS-CBN and GMA artists support. The idea of giving dignity to every Filipino through quality phones, services, content and technology is the reason why they choose the world class Pinoy product, my|phone.

From providing technology that's affordable for every Pinoy to protecting them from being victims of counterfeit money, my|phone always keeps the welfare of every Filipino in mind.

my|phone pusong pinoy





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Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28
So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say for yourself?"

No ID, No Entry

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD



REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL



Self-knowledge

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

Portal East reaches out to Visayas market

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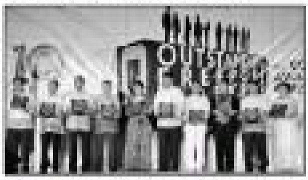
Peacefully joined our Creator on December 8, 2011.

Death Notice

Col. Virgilio B. Medina (Ret.)

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The Ten Outstanding Freeport Workers

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EMILIA "LANE" PAULO SAGARSARRIA

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This is to inform the public that
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December 6, 2011.

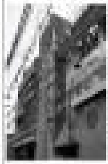
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(PDI - December 11, 2011)

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Notice is hereby given that the following individuals whose pictures appear above are no longer connected with ... Corporation. Any transaction made by them shall not be binding and honored by the Corporation.

New rules regulate outsourcing in banks

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PROVINCE OF LA UNION
City of San Fernando
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

NEECO II AREA I

NEECO II - AREA 1's Invitation for Bid No. NII-II-A1-2011-002

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